CROOKS and THEIR WAYS

By AN OLD THIEF

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EDITED BY J. CHALMERS DA COSTA, M. D., LL. D.

(CONTINUED FROM LAST SUNDAY)

CHAPTER XXVIII

PART III-Various Classes of Criminals-Pick-

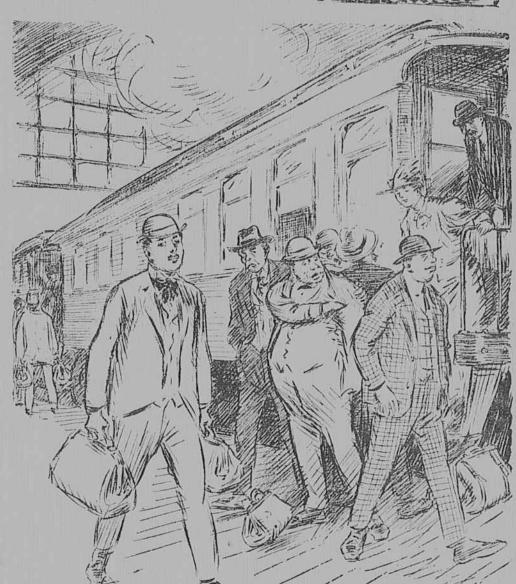




no called champions. Her songs were of a gay and reliability description, and were sung with an abandon that was not only wholly original but charming.

When this most was together, there was a circus in the room that was hard to best. Their favorite drink was ale, and it had a decidedly enlyoning effect. Now and then one of the Indies would lose her reckoning owing to the ale. Then Mrz Cox, George's mother, would officiate, pilot the ledy upstairs; lock her up, and keep her until she was quite herself again, and could go out in safety.

One great resson why Cox's was such a popular rendezvous was thus Cottlands street was crowded from early morning until late at night. The ferry, which was only a short distance away carried thousands tally; and many of the crowd were railroad passengers. In order to graft, a woman had only to



"The German discovered his loss as soon as he reached the platform"

because all the women wore great hoopskirts and carried their leathers in their pockets from which they could be removed without the victims' feeling them going. As the saying was, "You could put your foot into a 'cly' (pocket, without a 'tumble." A number of times I have seen members of the mob come in

CHAPTER XXIX

Burglars

HE burglar is the man that maker a forcible entrance and steals. He is the top of the criminal fraternity, and is known in general as the cracksman. To be a successful burglar, a man must have acute perception, courage, daring, commonsense, agility, mechanical ability, quickness and skill. His nerve must be unbreakable, and his physical endurance of the very best. He should have the brain to plan, as well as the hand to execute. Some men are particularly apt in planning; others are especially successful in executing. It is only the greatest burglar that combines the two in very high negree, such a man was Sheeny Mike, and such a one was borned for the burglar may engage in some regular trade or calling. Chauncey Johnson, the great bank sneak, was a burglar in the beginning of his career, working as a clerk in the daytime and as a burglar at night. This combination, however, rarely least long, as a man grows weary of routine labor and gives it up. During the day following a job the average burglar will be in retirement, securing rest; and in the intervals between jobs, he will be leading the life of a sentleman of leitsure, and often of a gambler, frequenting plenoure resorts, and being a customer of drums and restaurants.

Sometimes, although rarely, a burglar is a man of birth and good education, and such men are far more successful criminals, as a rule, than are those of a lower type. Every now and then the criminal fraternity is invaded by a member of fashionable society, who becomes a hotel thief, a confidence man, or an associate of burglars, to whom he can give valuable points as to houses and property. A number of years ago a member of a Philadelphia club used to come to B.'s drum, at Eleventh and Sansom streets, to confer with Jimmle Hope and other criminal celebrities. He would tell them of a good house to rob, and where the silverware and jewels were kept; and this information he obtained while visiting the house socially. He received, his percentage of every crack, and I believe that for years this c

the safe saved the president's reputation, and he cottinued to pose as a Christian and a philanthropist.

and is occasionally a crook himself and willing to sleeping during the hours that he should be on duty, lice likes to loaf or sleep in kitchens, stables, sailoons, direhouses and other pleasant resorts, and a burglar that knows where the policeman sleeps may work with a considerable advantage. Even when the copper is some intelligent and honest, he may not be policeman is at one end of his beat a forcible entry may be effected at the other without the possibility of like either seeing or hearing the burglar.

Watchmen are a certain amount of trouble to burglars, as the street watchman has only a very limited district to patrol, and is far more likely than the policeman to hear anything wrong. On the other hand, however, he is not unusually a man who wisheat to avoid trouble, preferring not to hear anything that seriously threatens to make it. The inside watchman of a manufacturing establishment or a store is as somnolent as the police officer, but the bank watchman is usually wide awake.

Dogs are a source of difficulty to burglars. A big dog outside may be successfully lured away before the burglary, but a little dog inside is not so easily disposed of. He makes a terrille noise, and cludes caption that a house containing a small dog are very likely to try to steal or poisen the animal beforehand.

The great enemy to the modern burglar is electricity. The telephone, which enables a person that discovers him to call for help, the burglar plant which notifies persons that he is either getting into the house or already inside, and the telegraph which enables a person that discovers him to call for help, the burglar larm, which notifies persons that he is either getting into the house or already inside, and the telegraph which sends his description to the police of various cities—all these are sources of danger. Sometimes a burglar cuts heforehand the wires of a burglar alarm that lead to some addacent district telegraph office, but on the business.

The days of great bank burglaries are over. Now and then, a litt